efforts continue to remedy the negative impressions and assessment generated by the events in Ayodhya in December and consequent developments within the Country.

Reduction in Staff strength of Indian Consulate in Karachi

208. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SMT. VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Goverment of Pakistan have decided to scale down the staff strength of Indian Consulate in Karachi from 64 to 20;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such action of Pakistan;

(c) what is Government's reaction in this regard;

(d) to what extent the work of Indian Consulate in Karachi is likely to suffer; and

(e) what steps Government have taken for the safety of Indian Consulate staff?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) On 29-12-92 Pakistan conveyed to us its decision on the basis of a unilateral interpretation of the Code of Conduct on the Treatment of Diplomatic/Consular Personnel that the strength of the Consulates of India and Pakistan in Bombay and Karachi should be kept at a maximum of 20 personnel.

(c) Government have conveyed to Pakistan its regret over the unilateral decision which is not in consonance with the spirit of the Code of Conduct. The staff in CGI Karachi has since been reduced to 20.

(d) The reduced strength of staff in the Consulate General of India in Karachi would impede the expeditious processing of visa request of Pakistani nationals to visit India and will reduce people to people contact between India and Pakistan.

(e) Government have conveyed through diplomatic channels that Pakistan is obliged to ensure the safety of India's property and personnel under international conventions and the Code of Conduct.

भारत और रूस के बीच में हुआ करार

209. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह :** क्या **विदेश** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) रूस के राष्ट्रपति, श्री बोरिस येल्त्सिन के साथ भारत-सरकार की किन-किन मुद्दों पर सहमति हुई है ;

(ख) कश्मीर समस्या और रूबल-रूपया विनिमय के सम्बन्ध में रूस के राष्ट्रपति के क्या विचार थे ; और

(ग) क्या पूर्व सोवियत संघ के साथ जिन सभी मुद्दो पर भारत की संधि हुई थी वह संधि अभी भी जारी है या उसमें कहीं कोई गतिरोध पैदा हो गया है ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री दिनेश सिंह) : (क) और (ख) रूसी परिसंघ के राष्ट्रपति श्री येल्त्सिन की यात्रा के दौरान आपसी हित-चिन्ता के बहुत से मसलों पर भारत और रूसी परिसंघ के बीच चर्चा हुई थी। आपसी हित के महत्वपूर्ण मसलों पर दोनों देशों के बीच मुख्य रूप से विचारों में समानता थी।

रुपय-रूबल विनिमय दर पर, तथा भूतपूर्व सोवियत समाजवादी गणतन्त्र संघ को भारत द्वारा देय ऋण पर उसे लागू करने के सम्बन्ध में भारत और रूस के बीच सहमति हुई थी।

राष्ट्रपति श्री येल्त्सिन ने 29 जनवरी, 1993 को नई दिल्ली में संवाददाता सम्मेलन में यह कहा था कि भारत को चाहिए कि वह अपनी अखण्डता और एकता बनाए रखे और अविभाज्य बना रहे। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि कश्मीर पर भारत की स्थिति को रूस अपना समर्थन देना चाहता है। राष्ट्रपति श्री येल्त्सिन ने रूपया-रूबल विनिमय दर और उससे सम्बद्ध मसलों पर सहमति को व्यावहारिक और रचनात्मक सहमति माना।

(ग) राष्ट्रपति श्री येल्त्सिन की यात्रा के दौरान भारत और रूस के बीच मैत्री और सहयोग से सम्बद्ध एक नई संधि सम्पन्न हुई जिसने भारत-सोवियत संधि का स्थान लिया है।

Indo-Bangladesh relations

210. MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indo-Bangladesh relations have touched an all time low recently in the wake of Ayodhya situation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to improve the relations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) In the wake of excessive and violent reactions in Bangladesh to developments in Ayodhya, our relations with Bangladesh have unfortunately come under some strain.

Our High Commission in Dhaka faced demonstrations and was stoned on December 6, 1992. Our High Commission library and the Indian Airlines's office in Dhaka were burnt on December 7, 1992.

Statements condemning "the demolition of the Babri Mosque" and calling upon Government of India "to rebuild the Mosque at its original site" were made by President and Prime Minister of Bangladesh as well as others. The proposed Long March to Ayodhya, the adoption of a critical resolution on the Ayodhya issue by the Bangladesh Parliament and the attempt to attribute the exclusive responsibility to India for the postponement of SAARC Summit in January 93 etc. have contributed to difficulties in Indo-Bangladesh relations.

(c) Deeply committed to maintenance of friendly relations with all our neighbours, Government remain hopeful that, given goodwill and concerted efforts by both sides, we will be able to resume the process of addressing various outstanding issues in our relations with Bangladesh.

Permanent membership in the security Council

211. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the permanent membership in the Security Council of UNO is likely to be increased; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to get the permanent membership in the Security Council?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) The issue of restructuring the UN including the question of expansion of the Security Council is under discussion in the UN. India has been emphasising the need to expand the Security Council, with equitable representation, at all appropriate multilateral and bilateral fora, in an effort to build a consensus on this issue. At the 47th UNGA. India and others tabled a Resolution on "Question of Equitable Representation and increase in the membership of the Security Council" which